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THOR

AND *PSYLOCKE!*

*AT THE MERCY
OF MADNESS!*



ALAN DAVIS' first movie!

30TH
ANNIVERSARY
1962 - 1992



**THE AMAZING
SPIDER-MAN**

THE POWERFUL CAPTAIN BRITAIN, THE SHAPE-CHANGING MEGGAN, THE INTANGIBLE SHADOWCAT, THE TELEPORTING NIGHTCRAWLER, THE MYSTERIOUS PHOENIX, THE EVER-UNPREDICTABLE WIDGET AND LOCKHEED THE DRAGON FORGED IN THE FIRES OF THEIR TRAGIC PASTS, THEY HAVE BANNED TOGETHER TO FIGHT A MODERN DAY CRUSADE AGAINST THE FORCES OF EVIL! STAN LEE PRESENTS...

EXCALIBUR!

THINGS THAT GO SHRIEK IN THE NIGHT

ALAN DAVIS

WRITER/PENCILER

NEISLER-ELIPOULOS

LETTERER

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EDITOR

EXCALIBUR CREATED BY
CHRIS CLAREMONT AND ALAN DAVIS

MARK FARMER

INKER

GLYNIS OLIVER

COLORIST

TOM DE FALCO

EDITOR IN CHIEF

BRADDOCK MANOR,
ENGLAND...

FOR LONG
MONTHS I HAVE POSED
AS THE INSPID, WEAK-
WILLED BANKER,
COURTNEY ROSS...

...FEIGNING
SERVILE COMPLIANCE
TO SOFT-BELLIED
PARASITES NOT
WORTHY TO KISS THE
GROUND ON WHICH
I WALK.

BUT THAT
TIME IS NO
MORE.

I
AM THE
MASTRIX
OMG LUL
SATYR-9...

...AND I
WILL RULE
ALL I
SURVEY.

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MUCH LATER...

SIXTEEN
STRAIGHT HOURS
SEARCHING AND
WE HAVEN'T FOUND
A TRACE OF KITTY
PRYDE. SHE'S
LONG GONE.

MAYBE JAMIE
VAPORIZED HER
OR SOMETHING.

ASK HIM,
NIGEL.

NO
WAY.

WAKE
HIM NOW
AND YOU
COULD END
UP LIKE
ENCALIBUR.

GRR-
GRR-
GRRRR.

AK...
AK!

OWWWW!

WASPI! WHAT
HAS HE DONE
TO THEM?

HE CAN
WARP
REALITY.

NO, CYNTHIA, JUST
DENSE FORMS...

...AND HE HAS TO
BE NEAR ENOUGH TO
MANIPULATE SOME
SORT OF COSMIC
FILAMENTS.

NIGEL...?

DIDN'T THAT PET FOX
ON JAMIE'S LAP USED TO
BE BRITAIN'S PREMIER
CRIME QUEEN...

...THE VIXEN!

AGHH--
FECK!

YOU ROTTER, VANYA...
YOU KNOW JAMIE FIXED
IT SO I NEED ONLY
THINK OF THE VIXEN
TO CHANGE.

NOT MUCH OF AN ABILITY,
NOW THAT THE VIXEN'S
ORGANIZATION ACKNOWLEDGES
THE MASTREX AS
ITS LEADER.

WHERE ARE YOU
GOING, VIX--I MEAN,
NIGEL? HA HA HA!

I'VE GOT
THINGS TO
DO--YOU ALL
CONTINUE
THE
SEARCH.

BRIAN...



BRIAN...



BRIAN...



BRIAN...
IT'S ME,
BETSY.

BETSY?
WHERE
ARE WE?

IN YOUR
MIND.

WHAT'S
GOING
ON?



I WAS
HOPING YOU
COULD TELL
ME.

YOU'VE BEEN
DRUGGED AND
PSYCHIC DAMPERS
HAVE BEEN ACTI-
VATED, BUT WE'RE
TWINN—OUR LINK
IS STRONGER THAN
ORDINARY
TELEPATHY.

SHE KILLED
COURTNEY.

SHE GLOATED—
TOLD ME
EVERYTHING.

IT'S SAT-YR-9,
THE FASCIST
DICTATOR OF
EARTH 774.



I REMEMBER,
SHE WAS INFATUATED
WITH HER REALITY'S
VERSION OF YOU.

BYRON BRADICK,
CAPTAIN BRITON, HE
ESCAPED FROM HER
DOMINATION BY
TRADING PLACES
WITH ME.

AND I
KILLED
HIM.

YOU HAD
NO CHOICE.
HE WAS AS
EVIL AS
SAT-YR-9.

HER
WHOLE
REGIME
WAS.

I'D STILL BE
A PRISONER THERE IF
GATECRASHER HADN'T
RELEASED A CARNIV-
OROUS FUNGUS.

SAT-YR-9
SURVIVED—HER
AMAZONIAN GUARD
STACKED THEIR
BODIES TO LIFT
HER OUT OF
DANGER—

...THAT
DEVoured
THE PALACE
GARRISON.

"—BUT SHE
WAS DRIVEN
INSANE.

"FROM THAT TIME ON,
SAT-YR-9'S SADISTIC
CRAUELTY PLUMBED
NEW DEPTHS.

"THE PEOPLE
REVOLTED AND A
BLOODY CIVIL
WAR ENSUED.



"ROMA ASSIGNED CAPTAIN U.K. TO EARTH 774..."

"...AND SHE ENDED SAT-YR-9'S TYRANNICAL REIGN."

"THE NEW LIBERAL SOCIETY ATTEMPTED TO REHABILITATE SAT-YR-9."

"SHE WAS HELD IN A LUXURIOUS HIGH SECURITY JAIL WHERE HER EVERY DESIRE WAS GRANTED..."

"...EXCEPT HER DESIRE TO BE FREE. THAT HAPPENED BY CHANCE."

"SOME WEIRD CHARACTER ENTERED HER CELL THROUGH A DIMENSIONAL INTERFACE."

"SAT-YR-9 WELCOMED HIM WITH OPEN ARMS..."

"...THEN ARRANGED IT SO HER JAILERS WOULD BELIEVE THE STRANGER'S VANDALIZED CORPSE WERE HER REMAINS."

"SAT-YR-9 IS INSANE, BUT QUITE BRILLIANT."

"ONCE HERE, ON EARTH 616, SHE TRACED THIS REALITY'S VERSION OF HERSELF — MY OLD FLAME, COURTNEY ROSS."

"I WAS A FOOL."

"I NOTICED SMALL DISCREPANCIES."

"BUT I LET MY HORMONES BLIND ME TO THE TRUTH."

"SHE KILLED HER."

"AS COURTNEY ROSS, VICE-PRESIDENT OF FRASERS BANK, SAT-YR-9 WAS ABLE TO SIPHON OFF LARGE AMOUNTS OF MONEY...

"TO FINANCE A NETWORK OF AGENTS SHE RECRUITED THROUGH THE BANK'S PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT.

"BUT HER BIG GUN WAS TO BE OUR BROTHER, JAMIE.



"SAT-YR-9 HAD KNOWN HER DIMENSION'S VERSION OF JAMIE, SO SHE KNEW ABOUT HIS REALITY-WARPING POWER BEFORE EVEN HE DID.

"JAMIE'S VILLAINOUS ACTIVITIES HAD BROUGHT HIM TO THE ATTENTION OF DOG CROC."



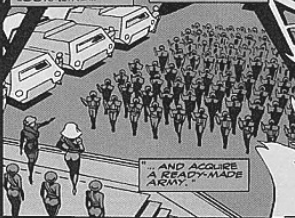
"AN AFRICAN PRINCE WHO HOPED TO CURE JAMIE'S EVIL NATURE WITH MYSTICISM.



"SAT-YR-9 SENT OATECRASHER TO RESCUE JAMIE.

"THEN, SAT-YR-9 HAD JAMIE TRANSFORM NIGEL FROBISHER INTO A VIXEN LOOKALIKE...

"... SO THAT SHE COULD INFILTRATE THE VIXEN'S CRIMINAL NETWORK...



"... AND ACQUIRE A READY-MADE ARMY."

"THAT ALL WENT ACCORDING TO PLAN, BUT I THINK SAT-YR-9 IS SCARED OF JAMIE.

"WHATEVER DOG CROC DID TO HIM HAS MADE HIM UNSTABLE.



"I KNOW, HE'S BARKING MAD.

"JAMIE THINKS HE IS LIVING IN HIS OWN DREAM."



EE EARGK!

WHA...?!

THAT SOUND--
SOMEONE IS
IN TERRIBLE
AGONY.

WHAT'S
GOING ON
OUT THERE?

... BUT THE
SCREAMING
HAS STOPPED.

GOOD, THE
COAST IS
CLEAR...

AND THE WAY SOUND
ECHOS IN
THIS OLD
HOUSE, I'VE
NO WAY OF
TELLING
WHERE IT
CAME FROM.

IT'S NIGHT-
TIME--AFTER
TEN P.M.

I'VE BEEN
UNCONSCIOUS
FOR THE BEST
PART OF A DAY.

STILL, THE PAIN
HAS SUBSIDED
WHATEVER JAMIE
DID TO ME IS
WEARING OFF.

THERE
SHE IS!

I'LL NET
HER.

A NET
I CAN
EASILY
PHASE--
NO!

SAT-YR-9
KNOWS MY
ABILITIES.

SHE WOULDN'T
SEND HER TROOPS
TO CAPTURE ME--

WITH AN
ORDINARY
NET.



I NEED
TO BE
UNPREDI-
TABLE...



... FAST,
HARD AND
RUTHLESS.



SAT-YR-9 OBVIOUSLY
PICKED HER AMAZO-
NIAN GUARD FOR
THEIR SIZE.



BUT THE BIGGER
THEY ARE, THE
HARDER THEY FALL.
I JUST HOPE NO
ONE HEARD.

NO...
IT'S STILL
QUIET.

I WAS LUCKY
THIS PAIR THOUGHT
I WOULD RELY ON
MY PHASING POWER.

THEY'RE PROFESSIONALS,
WELL-TRAINED...



... AND WELL-
EQUIPPED.

THIS GUN IS CAPABLE
OF FIRING A VARIETY
OF HIGH VELOCITY
SHELLS, BUT IT'S PRIMED
WITH DRUGGED PELLETS--
SAT-YR-9 WANTS US
ALIVE.

THE SCANNER
IS SOME SORT
OF RADAR SET
TO DETECT
ANYTHING THAT
MOVES...



... EXCEPT
SAT-YR-9'S
TROOPS.

MEANWHILE,
UPSTAIRS...

NIGEL!
WHAT ARE
YOU DOING?

KEEP!

I... I'M GOING
TO DISPOSE
OF THIS MUSCLE-
BOUND OAF.

THEN I'M
TAKING OVER.
I'M A QUICK
LEARNER.
"MASTREX."

THIS TRANQ-
GUN IS LOADED
WITH YOUR
MIND CONTROL
DRUG.

ONE SHOT
AND YOU'LL
SERVE ME.

CAN WE NOT
TALK, NIGEL?
YOU CAN SEE
I AM UNARMED.

DO YOU REALLY
WANT ME AS
A MINDLESS
SLAVE...

...OR A
WILLING
PARTNER?

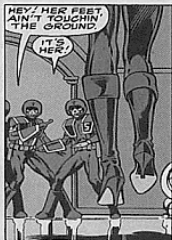
DO
YOU MEAN
IT?

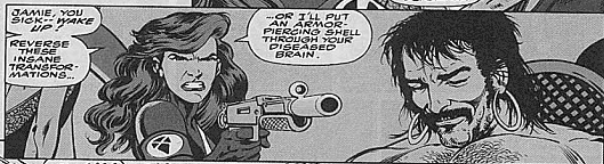
OF COURSE
NOT, FOOL!

I MERELY
WANTED TO
GET CLOSE
TO YOUR
KNIFE.

AND YOU
OBLIGED ME,
AS ALL OF
WEAK WILL
MUST.

I DID NOT
BECOME
MASTREX WITH-
OUT PROWESS
OF MY OWN.











DO NOT RESIST THE DRUG, MY LOVE. IN TIME, YOU WILL SEE IT IS FOR THE BEST.

WE ARE SOUL-MATES. TOGETHER WE WILL RULE THIS WORLD. NEVER.

THEN YOU WILL DIE!









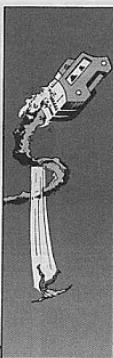


STRENGTH!
HE'S TEARING
THE SHIP
APART!

ELECTRIFY
THE HULL.



YAAARRGH!



I HAVE
YOU,
DARLING.



THEY'RE
GETTING
AWAY.

LET THEM
GO...WE ARE
IN NO SHAPE
FOR PURSUIT
OR COMBAT.



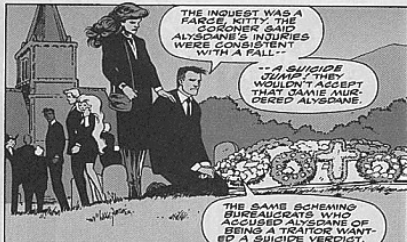
SAT-YR-9
MURDERED
COURTNEY.
I WON'T
REST UNTIL
SHE PAYS.

WE WILL BRING
HER TO JUSTICE.
MEIN FREUND.

BUT FIRST
WE MUST
RECOVER
OUR
STRENGTH.

"... AND BURY
OUR DEAD."

NINE DAYS LATER,
AT THE ST. ANDREWS
CHAPEL CHURCH,
DUNOON, SCOTLAND...



THE INQUEST WAS A
FARCE. KITTY, THE
CORONER, SAID
ALYSDANE'S INJURIES
WERE CONSISTENT
WITH A FALL."

"--A SUICIDE
JUMP? THEY
WOULDN'T ACCEPT
THAT JAMIE MUR-
DERED ALYSDANE."

THE SAME SCHEMING
BUREAUCRATS WHO
ACCUSED ALYSDANE OF
BEING A TRAITOR FOF-
FERED A SUICIDE VERDICT.

YOUR SISTER
NEVER BETRAYED
ANYONE, ALISTAIRE.

COLONEL
FURY.



IT'S TRUE
INFORMATION
WAS LEAKED TO
S.H.I.E.L.D., BUT
IT WAS OUT OF
DATE, TOTALLY
USELESS...



...STRATEGIC
MAPS THAT
PREDATED
GERMANY'S
REUNIFICATION.

ALYSDANE
WAS FRAMED.

SHE WAS A
GOOD SOLDIER
AN' A FINE
WOMAN.



I FIGURED
YOU'D WANT
TO CLEAR
HER NAME.

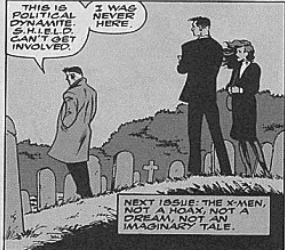
THE LEAK WAS TRANS-
MITTED BY COMPUTER.
OUR TECHNICIANS
ISOLATED THIS
ELECTRONIC FINGER-
PRINT.

MAYBE YOUR
PEOPLE CAN
TRACE ITS
SOURCE.



THIS IS
POLITICAL
DYNAMITE.
S.H.I.E.L.D.
CAN'T GET
INVOLVED.

I WAS
NEVER
HERE.



NEXT ISSUE: THE X-MEN,
NOT A HOAX, NOT A
DREAM, NOT AN
IMAGINARY TALE.

Comic Book

% MARVEL COMICS GROUP
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

TERRY KAVANAGH
EDITOR
MARK POWERS
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Attention correspondents: if you don't want your full address printed, please be sure to tell us so!

Dear Terry,

Please tell Mr. Davis that he is doing a wonderful job. I never thought it was possible to explain the Phoenix mess, but "All You Ever Wanted To Know About Phoenix...But Were Afraid To Ask" explained everything clearly and precisely in just one issue. The Phoenix has always been one of my favorite characters/entities, but I was really confused (and frustrated) by all this alternate future nonsense. To say the least, I am glad that this mess has been finally cleaned up. I am sorry to see Phoenix leave the team, but I also know that shift is bound to return in the future. Now, if only Mr. Davis could finally reveal Kurt's origin and have him reunited with Amanda Setton...

Robert Hernandez
Davis, CA

We can only clear up so many questions about team member's pasts in one issue, Robert! But be assured, Kurt's story is coming soon, and Amanda Setton will play a part!

Dear Sword Strokes,

I was pleased with the outcome of EXCALIBUR #52 a great deal. I wrote to you guys about who should get out of the team back around issue #50, and you guys made me happy by making it Rachel. I have never really hated Phoenix, but I never latched on to her the way I would to a favorite character, either. I am happy she is gone, but I would like her to return in time. Thanks.

Why has Alan Davis stopped doing the art chores for this series? I know that it is difficult enough for a person to be doing the writing for a complex team book, but I am really missing his "look" for the members of the team. I hope that the last two issues were more fill-ins and that I can look forward to the return of Mr. Davis in the next thirty days.

I can't wait for the return of Jamie Braddock in the very near future. I have liked him ever since the classic EXCALIBUR #19, and I can never get enough of this weird dude. Make him stay around for a few issues this time, okay?

By the way, I really liked the latest SPECIAL on my favorite band of British mutants. I thought Scott Lobdell put out one of the best stories in recent memory about the original X-Men and the new Excalibur.

So until Kylan shaves his body to look like Charles Xavier, Make Mine Marvel!

Michael D. Krabbenhoft
RR #3 Box 262
Maquoketa, IA 52606

Rest easy, Michael, Alan Davis has not stopped doing the art chores on EXCALIBUR! Last summer's bi-weeklies set us all a little bit back. The good news is that now we're caught up and Alan Davis and Mark Farmer are here to stay!

Dear Sword Strokes,

Well, what a crumby issue #52 was. I can't believe Rachel is gone. The team just

won't be the same.

Corise is a welcome addition, if she intends to hang around for a while, but no Rachel? I can only hope this is a bad dream.

Give her a speedy recovery, people, I'm missing her already.

Gary Smith
108 Ardoy Street
Glasgow G32 7AP
Scotland

Rachel is gone from the team, Gary, but not from the book. We hope this reassures the next two readers as well!

Dear Alan, Terry, and Mark,
BRING BACK RACHEL!

Chris J. Scull
7 Rupert Ct.
Thornstown, Victoria
Australia 3074

So, Chris, how do you really feel? No, seriously, just stay with us!

And, thanks for the postcard showing us many of the strange animals you live with in Australia!

Dear Sword Strokes,

I would like to make a few comments about issue #52.

NO WAY!! UH-UH!! NOPE!! NOT A CHANCE!! REWRITE IT!! DO OVER!! In case I have not made my point yet: BRING BACK PHOENIX!!

Phoenix is one of my favorite characters in the Marvel Universe (and my favorite member of Excalibur). In fact, she was one of the main reasons I started buying EXCALIBUR in the first place. Now what have you gone and done? You killed her!! How dare you???

On the positive side, thanks for finally showing the origin of Phoenix. It was the only thing worth reading in this issue.

One more thing, bring back Phoenix!

Jason A. Trimble
7579 Penwood Place
Worthington, OH 43235

Whoa, Jason! We didn't kill Rachel — in fact, just the opposite! In order to save her, we sent her off into space under the care of the Phoenix force! So relax, take a deep breath, and don't miss an issue of EXCALIBUR!

Dear Terry and Mark,

This is my first (and hopefully not only) letter. I just had to write in and say thanks for one of the best mags in the business.

Regarding issue #52: Superb! I can't wait to find out what happens to Phoenix and the Crazy Gang! All I can say is, it's been far too long. In my opinion, the Crazy Gang is Excalibur's best villain group! I hope to see much more of them in the future.

Jim Wornell
10831-113th Ct. NE #G-208
Kirkland, WA 98033

You must be enjoying all the Crazy Gang action, Jim!

Dear Sword Strokes,

First of all, Alan Davis is doing a great job. Ever since he took over, EXCALIBUR is of the highest quality.

Issue #52: Finally! Phoenix's origin is told completely. It was well done, the way she was taken out of Excalibur. It leaves her able to reappear in future issues. Will Simpson did a good job, but I will be glad when Alan Davis returns.

I think I have a No-Prize. In issue #52 it says that Nightcrawler was one of the first to be slaughtered. He was killed before Rachel became a hound. Yet, in issue #35, D'Spayre brings up the memory of Rachel as a hound, hunting down Kurt, which, according to issue #52, didn't happen. The explanation: D'Spayre actually created this memory from Rachel's fragmented mind, hoping that she would believe it. I think that qualifies for a No-Prize.

Until Rachel comes back (and even after that), Make Mine Marvel!

Brian Tompkins
83 Quiet Oak Circle
The Woodlands, TX 77381

Well, you weren't the only one, Brian, who noticed the um...ah...missing piece of information. (Yeah, that's the ticket!) But we liked your retelling the best! Congratulations! A No-Prize is currently winging its way to you! Of course, you understand that we really *meant* to include that bit of information about D'spayre...

Dear Sword Strokes,

First, I would like to tell you how great Alan Davis is. Not only can he draw wonderfully, he's a great writer as well! His ideas are fantastic!

I just finished reading issue #52. Thanks for filling us in on Phoenix, guys. After the "Giant-Sized Spectacular" issue #50, I began to wonder about Phoenix's powers and her past.

I would also like to compliment you guys (Terry and Mark). Great job! Until Rachel shaves her head, Make Mine Marvel!

Dane Charbeneau
9402 Valley Moss
San Antonio, TX 78250

Alan's doing a great job filling us all in on the interesting origins and pasts of the team members. Stay tuned, Dane, for more of the same!

NEXT ISSUE: The X-Men's past comes back to haunt Excalibur!

